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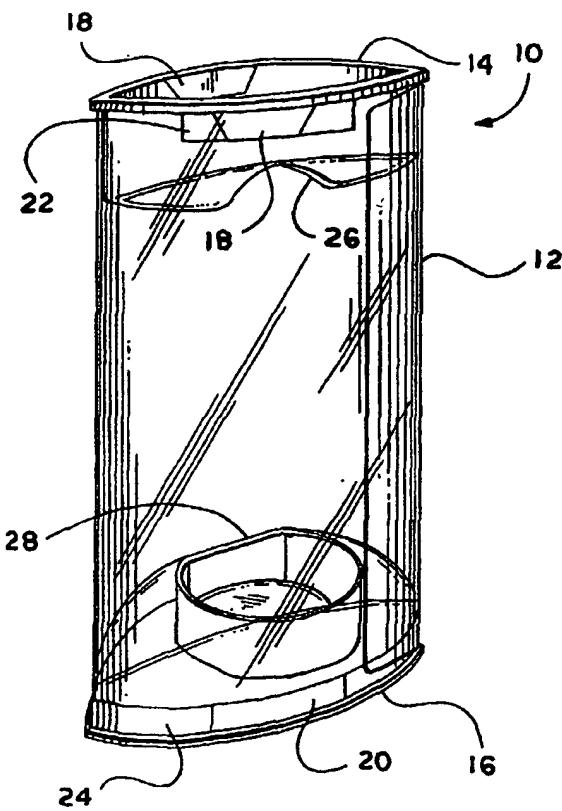
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(54) Title: PRODUCT CONTAINER WITH LOCKING END CAP

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(57) Abstract: A package (10) is described that includes a sleeve (12) having at least one end defining an opening. The sleeve further includes at least one pair of locking tabs (18) extending therefrom, each locking tab including a locking edge, each locking tab being folded inwards into the opening. The package further includes a rigid end cap (14, 16) dimensioned to fit closely within the opening, the end cap including a rim (30, 32) designed so that, when the end cap is inserted into the opening, the rim engages the sleeve end and prevents the end cap from being inserted further into the opening. The end cap further includes a channel (22, 24) for receiving the pair of locking tabs, the channel having a ledge (34, 36) that engages the locking edge of each locking tab to prevent the end cap from being removed from the sleeve opening. Another described package provides a release mechanism for allowing an end cap to be removed without causing damage to the package.